
Performance of Several Zucchini Squash Cultivars in North Florida 96-14Robert C. Hochmuth, George J. Hochmuth¹**Materials and Methods**

Plots were established in a Lakeland fine sand at the Suwannee Valley Research and Education Center near Live Oak, FL. Preplant soil tests (Mehlich-1 extract) showed 53 ppm P, 34 ppm K, 28 ppm Mg and 320 ppm Ca. Soil pH was 6.1 using a 1:2 (soil:water) solution. The soil was fertilized prior to planting with 600 lbs/A of 13-4-13 (N-P₂O₅-K₂O) on March 14, 1996. The crop also received an additional 50 lbs/A of N and K₂O via weekly fertigations from April 25 to May 17. Beds were formed on 5 ft centers and covered with black plastic mulch. A drip irrigation tube was laid in a 1 inch deep groove in the center of the bed. Final beds were 36 inches wide and 6 inches high. Plots (15 ft) were established on the beds and were seeded on April 1, 1996. Two rows per bed were seeded with seed spaced 18 inches apart in each row on the bed.

Plots were irrigated by drip irrigation using a tensiometer as a scheduling aid. Water was applied to maintain a soil moisture level of -8 to 012 centibars at a 12 inch depth. Insects and diseases were managed in accordance with a recommended spray program. Squash was harvested eight times from May 13 to May 30. Fruits were counted and graded as marketable or cull. Data were subjected to analysis of variance procedures.

Results and Discussion

Excellent yields were found in several cultivars. Total seasonal yield ranged from 678 bu/A for 'Dividend' to 1023 bu/A with 'Sun 9715' (Table 1). Similar top yields of over 800 bu/A were found in 'Sun 9715', 'Sensation', 'Hurricane', 'Senator', 'Consul', and 'President'. The lowest yields with no statistical difference included 'Dividend', 'Sun 9732', and 'Revenue'. Intermediate yield of 855 bu/A was found with 'XPH 1712' which was not significantly different from the total yield of any other cultivar.

Highest early yields were over 200 bu/A in the first two harvests. The highest early yields were found in 'President', 'Senator', 'XPH 1712', 'Hurricane', and 'Sun 9732'. Smallest fruit were found in 'Dividend' and 'Revenue'. All others had intermediate average fruit weights.

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Trial Cooperators^z

Hendrix and Dail, Inc (fumigant), 7610 US Highway 41 N, Palmetto FL 34221
 Sonoco Products Co (mulch), 1 N 2nd Street, PO Box 160, Hartsville SC 29550
 Roberts Irrigation Products, Inc (drip tube), 700 Rancheros Dr, San Marcos, CA 92069
 IMC Fertilizer, Inc (fertilizer), PO Box M, Tifton GA 31793
 Sunseed Genetics, Inc (seed), PO Box 1438, Hollister CA 95024-1438
 Asgrow Seed Co (seed), Doraville GA 30360
 Peter Edward Seed Co (seed), Main Office, 302 S Center St, Eustis FL 32726
 Petoseed (seed), 1905 Lirio Ave, PO Box 4206, Saticoy CA 93007-4206
 Rogers Seed Co (seed), PO Box 1827, Gilroy CA 95021

^zContact Extension Service for names and address of current Florida representatives. Mention of a specific company or product does not constitute endorsement over other companies or equivalent products.

Table 1. Evaluation of ten zucchini squash cultivars for early and total yield and average fruit weight in the spring of 1996 at Live Oak, FL.

Cultivar	Seed Source	Marketable Yield (bu/A ^z)		Avg. Fruit Wt. (lbs)
		Total Season	Early Season	
Sun 9715	Sunseeds	1023	281	1.05
Sensation	Asgrow	1008	252	1.05
Hurricane	Sunseeds	960	274	1.09
Senator	Asgrow	934	234	1.15
Consul	Asgrow	887	186	1.01
President	Petoseed	872	252	1.16
XPH 1712	Asgrow	855	230	1.10
Revenue	Rogers	791	195	0.92
Sun 9732	Sunseeds	753	154	1.08
Dividend	Rogers	678	154	0.86
Significance ^y		*	**	**
LSD (0.05) ^x		186	62	0.08

^z Yields calculated on basis of 42 lbs per bushel.

^y Significance was either significant at the 5% level (*) or highly significant at the 1% level (**).

^x Least significant difference (LSD) was calculated at the 5% level.